

# Foreign Agricultural Service *GAIN* Report

Global Agriculture Information Network

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GAIN Report #UY2003

Date: 9/6/2002

## Uruguay

## **Livestock and Products**

## **Annual**

2002

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#### **Report Highlights:**

Uruguayan beef exports in 2003 are expected to increase from 240,000 MT to 250,000 MT due to larger production and stable domestic consumption. FMD is under control in Uruguay with key export markets reopened although the NAFTA countries remain closed. Cattle exports in 2003 are estimated to rebound slightly with the reopening of additional export markets, and gradually recuperating cattle prices in Argentina. Cattle stocks in 2003 will continue to increase as calf crop is again expected to more than offset a larger slaughter.

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#### SECTION I. SITUATION AND OUTLOOK

#### **Trade**

Uruguayan beef exports for 2003 are expected at 250,000 MT, an increase of 10,000 MT from 2002. Larger production with stable domestic consumption will increase export supplies while additional key export markets are expected to continue to reopen, after the FMD outbreak in April 2001. During the past four years, Uruguay has been undergoing a deep recession as a consequence of the Brazilian economic crisis first, followed by the economic and political crisis in Argentina in early 2002. The agricultural activity, primarily beef production, is the only sector which showed some improvement, especially after devaluation of the Uruguayan Peso in June 2002, which made Uruguayan exporters become more competitive.

The Government of Uruguay (GOU) is making strenuous efforts towards the definitive eradication of FMD, whose last outbreak was detected on August 21, 2001. As of August 2002, 56 export markets have reopened to fresh boneless beef, beginning with the European Union (EU) and Israel in November 2001. However, additional markets - including the most important American markets - have yet to open. Uruguayan animal health authorities are planning to vaccinate all cattle again in 2003, and will not discontinue vaccination until there is a regional agreement on how FMD eradication will be handled. In July 2002, a NAFTA sanitary mission carried out a risk assessment in Uruguay which proved highly successful in demonstrating that FMD is under control. Most expect that Canada will be reopened for fresh boneless beef by the end of 2002 and that the U.S. will follow later by the end of 2003. In addition, the once promising markets for Uruguay's high value beef cuts before the FMD crisis, Japan-Korea, are not expected to resume exports while the country continues vaccinating.

Uruguay's 6,300 MT Hilton beef quota to the EU was not affected by the sanitary crisis. However, the GOU requested an additional quota of 2,300 MT for July 2002-June 2003 arguing the increase was merited on the basis that the country is facing a difficult economic situation and is still trying to counteract the effects of the FMD crisis. The EU temporarily rejected this request but will reconsider it at a later date. (The 10,000 MT increase of Argentina's Hilton beef quota will adversely impact on the Uruguayan beef sector since both countries share export markets. This adds to the serious Argentine economic situation following devaluation at the beginning of 2002 making Uruguay become less and less competitive.)

Beef exports for 2002 are estimated at 240,000 MT. Uruguay's beef exports increased sightly to 118,387 MT in January-June 2002 compared with 102,205 MT during the same period in 2001 (almost all markets were open until late April) as a result of the reactivation of the beef sector through the reopening of various export markets led by the EU and Israel. Uruguay had to aggressively search for non-traditional markets to compensate for the loss of the most important beef destinations, such as the United States and Canada. The following table includes Uruguayan primary beef export markets:

#### (MT - CWE)

Country	Jan-June 2002	Country	Jan-June 2001
Israel	23,654	Canada	21,183
United Kingdom	15,867	Israel	17,744
Brazil	14,096	United States	15,790
Egypt	9,727	Brazil	13,206
Algeria	9,090	United Kingdom	6,412
Russia	5,598	Argentina	5,509
Germany	4,436	Mexico	3,392

Cattle exports are expected to rebound slightly in 2003 with the reopening of additional export markets, and gradually recuperating cattle prices in Argentina. Exports in 2002 are not expected to be significant primarily because of FMD but also due to more competitive prices in Argentina, Uruguay's main export destination, which will force producers to retain animals in the field. In the case of Argentina, there is no sanitary impediment to export as long as cattle go to slaughter. However, the Argentine devaluation added to the lack of commercial guarantees due to the economic crisis, make it impossible to do business with this partner. Other countries which reopened their markets to Uruguayan cattle are Peru, Venezuela, and Ecuador.

Since Uruguay has traditionally been a large beef exporter, in 2003 no significant beef volumes are estimated to be imported into the country. Some private sources reported that supermarkets are importing beef from Argentina taking advantage of lower prices after devaluation in January 2002. This trend is expected to be temporary since Argentine beef prices are expected to increase. During January-July 2002, it imported \$425,000 worth of chilled boneless beef and \$200,000 of frozen boneless beef from Argentina, and \$105,000 of thermoprocessed beef from Brazil and Argentina. In 2001, Uruguay imported \$192,000 worth of thermoprocessed beef from Brazil and Argentina. Uruguay has a 5.5 percent export rebate for boneless beef; 2.25 percent for bone-in beef and between 4.5 percent and 6 percent for thermoprocessed beef. As a Mercosur member, Uruguay applies the common external Mercosur tariff which ranges from 3 to 23 percent. In general, intra-Mercosur trade pays no tariffs.

The Uruguayan National Meat Institute (INAC) is actively developing a certified natural beef pilot project for which a certification protocol was designed. Its ultimate goal is to certify 95 percent of the country's total beef production. Both the GOU and beef exporters expect that this project will serve as a tool to help them differentiate Uruguayan beef in international markets.

<u>Note</u>: Exports in carcass weight equivalent (CWE) differ from Uruguay's official data/estimates as FAS applies an average conversion ratio of 1.36 to product weight volumes. As a result, CWE exports in PS&D are lower than those estimated in Uruguay. Therefore, this

also affects domestic consumption data, increasing it. INAC's conversion ratios are: 2.4 for thermoprocessed beef; 1.02 for frozen/chilled bone-in beef; and 1.6 for frozen/chilled boneless beef.

#### **Production**

Cattle stocks in 2003 are projected to continue to increase as calf crop is again expected to more than offset a larger slaughter (plus losses). Slaughter is expected to grow, especially with higher prices and the reopening of the NAFTA market. Larger calf-crops in the past few years resulted from improved herd management techniques and good pastures. The closing of important export markets to Uruguayan beef, low cattle prices, good weather conditions, and the country's financial crisis encouraged producers to retain animals in the ranches during winter 2002 awaiting an improvement of the overall situation.

Beef production is forecast at 441,000 MT for 2003, 20,000 MT higher than in 2002, due to an expected increase in slaughter and improved export conditions following the expected reopening of the NAFTA market. Currently, Uruguayan producers are undergoing a serious financial situation due to declining prices and lack of credit resulting from the deteriorating economic crisis affecting the country during the past few months.

Uruguayan beef production is mainly oriented towards supplying export markets, which account for an average of 60 percent of production. During the past few years, there were significant investments in pastures and management improvements to slaughter cattle at a younger age. The weaning ratio was estimated at approximately 73 percent in 2001. Feedlot production represents only 5-7 percent of the total slaughter and it mainly supplies the Uruguayan domestic market through supermarket chains. It is not expected to grow because of higher grain prices, cattle price uncertainty and a four-year recession in the Uruguayan market, which does not pay a premium for it.

Producers have high expectations that cattle prices will recover after the NAFTA countries reopen their markets. This will also depend largely on the recuperation of Argentine cattle prices. Prices of live steer declined from \$0.77 in March 2001, before the FMD crisis, to \$0.55 in July 2002 due to oversupply during the first few months of 2002 and reduced slaughter as a consequence of difficulties in reopening markets. During the last couple of months, prices have remained stable because producers decided to retain cattle mainly as a consequence of the financial crisis in Uruguay.

#### Consumption

In 2003, beef domestic consumption is expected to increase to 191,000 MT from 184,000 MT in 2002 as a consequence of increased beef production and the country's gradual recuperation from the economic recession. Annual per capita beef consumption in Uruguay is estimated at approximately 60 kg., the second highest in the world after Argentina, poultry consumption: 16 kg., and pork and lamb consumption is relatively small. Beef is mainly consumed in urban areas and lamb in rural areas. All beef cuts are popular in Uruguay; however, demand for lower priced forequarter cuts increased due to the economic recession. Estimated comparative consumer prices are as follows: tenderloin \$9/kg,

and round eye \$4/kg. Chicken is \$2/kg. In general, consumers with a higher purchasing power buy beef cuts in supermarkets (25-30 percent market share) where prices are more expensive, while less affluent consumers buy in butcher shops (70-75 percent market share).

#### Useful web sites

http://www.inac.gub.uy(National Meat Institute)

http://www.uruguaymeat.gub.uy (National Meat Institute - Beef Promotion Program)

http://www.mgap.gub.uy/opypa/ (Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture, and Fisheries)

http://www.ine.gub.uy (National Statistics Institute)

http://www.aduanas.gub.uy (Uruguayan Customs)

Newspapers containing agricultural supplements:

http://www.diarioelpais.com.uy (El Pais Newspaper)

http://www.observa.com.uy (El Observador Newspaper)

## II. SECTION II. STATISTICAL TABLES

PSD Table							
Country	Uruguay						
Commodity	Meat, Beef a	nd Veal			(1000 MT CWE)(1000 HEAD)		
	Revised	Revised 2001 Preliminary			Forecast	2003	
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New	
Market Year Begin		01/2001		01/2002		01/2003	
Slaughter (Reference)	1600	1322	1650	1720	0	1800	
Beginning Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Production	370	317	380	421	0	441	
Intra EC Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Imports	0	0	0	3	0	0	
TOTAL Imports	0	0	0	3	0	0	
TOTAL SUPPLY	370	317	380	424	0	441	
Intra EC Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Other Exports	144	145	139	240	0	250	
TOTAL Exports	144	145	139	240	0	250	
Human Dom. Consumption	226	172	241	184	0	191	
Other Use, Losses	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL Dom. Consumption	226	172	241	184	0	191	
Ending Stocks	0	0	0	0	0	0	
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	370	317	380	424	0	441	
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	36	36	0	0	0	0	

PSD Table						
Country	Uruguay					
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Cattle				(1000 HEAD)	
	Revised	2001	Preliminary	2002	Forecast	2003
	Old	New	Old	New	Old	New
Market Year Begin		01/2001		01/2002		01/2003
Total Cattle Beg. Stks	10423	10423	10653	11667	11093	12337
Dairy Cows Beg. Stocks	380	380	380	380	0	380
Beef Cows Beg. Stocks	3500	3806	3550	3780	0	3750
Production (Calf Crop)	2050	2800	2300	2600	0	2500
Intra EC Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL Imports	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL SUPPLY	12473	13223	12953	14267	11093	14837
Intra EC Exports	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Exports	20	14	10	10	0	15
TOTAL Exports	20	14	10	10	0	15
Cow Slaughter	720	550	755	830	0	825
Calf Slaughter	35	22	35	40	0	35
Other Slaughter	845	750	860	850	0	940
Total Slaughter	1600	1322	1650	1720	0	1800
Loss	200	220	200	200	0	200
Ending Inventories	10653	11667	11093	12337	0	12822
TOTAL DISTRIBUTION	12473	13223	12953	14267	0	14837
Calendar Yr. Imp. from U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0
Calendar Yr. Exp. to U.S.	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Prices Table			
Country	Uruguay		
Commodity	Meat, Beef and Veal		
Prices in	US\$	per uom	KG
Year	2001	2002	% Change
Jan	1.65	1.29	-21.82%
Feb	1.68	1.29	-23.21%
Mar	1.7	1.29	-24.12%
Apr	1.67	1.25	-25.15%
May	1.66	1.27	-23.49%
Jun	1.47	1.19	-19.05%
Jul	1.44		-100.00%
Aug	1.29		-100.00%
Sep	1.15		-100.00%
Oct	1.19		-100.00%
Nov	1.23		-100.00%
Dec	1.21		-100.00%
Exchange Rate	26.5	Local currency/US	
		\$	

Prices Table			
Country	Uruguay		
Commodity	Animal Numbers, Cattle		
Prices in	US\$	per uom	KG
Year	2001	2002	% Change
Jan	0.76	0.55	-27.63%
Feb	0.77	0.56	-27.27%
Mar	0.77	0.56	-27.27%
Apr	0.75	0.55	-26.67%
May	0.68	0.52	-23.53%
Jun	0.66	0.53	-19.70%
Jul	0.65	0.55	-15.38%
Aug	0.63		-100.00%
Sep	0.6		-100.00%
Oct	0.61		-100.00%
Nov	0.59		-100.00%
Dec	0.57		-100.00%
Exchange Rate	26.5	Local	
		currency/US \$	

		BEI	Uruguay EF EXPOR	rs								
		(r	netric tons	)								
Fresh/Chilled												
Destination	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002				
Algeria	2,630	5,753	6,583	20,459	8,997	8,044	7,197	0 2733				
Argentina			52,770	37,944	14,386	19,738	10,050	2996				
Brazil Canada	13,360 0	31,252	32,770	37,944	14,380	19,738	75	2996				
Canary Island	U	U	22	U	111	09	188	305				
Chile	1,157	1,189	3,419	6,750	4,907	4,372	1,248	3214				
Egypt	1,157	1,107	3,717	0,730	7,207	7,572	1,240	0				
European Union	4,442	6,480	6,827	6,982	7,805	6,719	5,380	4899				
Faroe Islands	NA	0,400	0,027	0,562	3	0,717	0,500	0				
Guatemala	0	0	0	0	0	39	0	0				
Hong Kong	0	0	0	0	0	13	0	0				
Israel	Ü	Ŭ	Ŭ	Ŭ	Ŭ	13	242	0				
Japan	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0				
Mexico	0	0	0	41	942	4,071	19	0				
Netherlands Antilles	NA	NA	NA	355		,	0	0				
Panama	0	0	0	0	487	0	0	0				
Paraguay	74	4	215	0	0	98	0	0				
Russia								0				
Saudi Arabia	186	286	NA	99	125	118	0	10				
Switzerland	203	30	116	166	187	166	20	0				
Turkey	80	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
United States	20	2,734	2,901	4,468	5,119	4,322	1,602	0				
Total	22,152	47,728	72,853	77,264	43,070	47,790	26,021	14157				
<b>D</b>	1005	1006	Frozen	1000	1000	2000	2001	Jan-July				
<b>Destination</b> Albania	1995 NA	1996	1997 26	1998	1999	2000	2001 78	2002				
Algeria	0	0	0	228	1,089	1,454	492	6684				
Argentina	328	907	1,673	5,358	734	1,167	612	334				
Bahamas	320	701	1,075	5,550	754	1,107	74	0				
Bahrain	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	25	0	0				
Brazil	8,158	8,713	6,472	3,921	3,164	2,675	2,116	7369				
Bulgaria	NA	0,713	426	878	100	0	127	0				
Camaroon	0	0	0	0	1	Ü	0	0				
Canada	0	138	8,303	1,044	14,887	24,527	23,263	0				
Canary Island			-,	,	,22,	,==,	2,069	2545				
Chile	1,189	2,134	4,497	6,291	1,580	1,029	947	0				
China		,		,	,	, ,	1,112	0				
							,					

Croatia	0	15	0	0	0	25	0	0
Cuba							228	0
Cyprus	0	1	0	0	11	19	0	0
Czech Republic	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Ecuador	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0
Egypt	0	633	0	859	0		356	7152
European Union	16,740	14,411	22,534	19,674	11,991	9,911	10,875	11415
French Guiana	12	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0
French Polynesia	NA	14	0	0	6	13	0	0
Gabon	NA	3	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0
Greenland	0	0	0	0	9	15	0	0
Grenada	0	0	0	0	16	32	0	0
Guadeloupe	45	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0
Guatemala	0	0	0	0	86	382	0	0
Hong Kong	1,460	1,346	1,187	748	933	744	0	0
Hungary	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0
Israel	0	23,589	29,621	21,758	25,137	28,088	20,020	17389
Jamaica	NA	0	7	1	0	0	0	0
Japan	0	0	0	234	1,420	6,881	0	0
Jordan	0	NA	91	0	0	0	130	0
Kazakhstan	NA	NA	NA	0	NA	4	0	0
Korea, Republic of	0	0	0	0	0	4,653	0	0
Latvia							250	0
Macau	25	0	60	0	15	15	0	0
Macedonia	NA	0	0	50	0		0	0
Malaysia	0	0	0	0	14	14	3	0
Martinique	47	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0
Mexico	0	0	0	153	5,127	13,765	422	0
Morocco	0	0	0	0	14	15	0	0
Norway	0	0	0	0	8	3	0	0
Paraguay	0	0	36	0	0	91	0	0
Peru	420	81	391	308	55	26	81	0
Poland	0	582	883	0	0	0	0	0
Russia	NA	0	0	1,190	219	1,246	0	4190
Saudi Arabia	294	502	NA	424	783	729	270	2106
Senegal	NA	0	0	1	0	14	148	0
Singapore	1,122	776	852	104	0	150	242	0
Slovenia	61	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Africa	0	30	548	516	1,327	2,758	904	0
Switzerland	1,155	504	464	297	95	132	15	0
Trinidad & Tobago	0	0	0	28	0	1,228	0	0
United States	107	17,548	16,852	8,964	15,808	14,013	7,552	0
- mica states		17,510	13,032	3,201	10,000	1 1,013	1,002	

Venezuela	382	42	229	891	1,560	2,127	1,180	0				
Total	31,545	71,969	95,152	73,937	86,190	117,970	73,583	59184				
	Processed											
Destination	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002				
Argentina	0	0	0	382	1,448	1,922	0	0				
Barbados	NA	NA	130	105	0	0	0	0				
Brazil	8	19	698	1,347	563	160	151	0				
Canada	88	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Chile	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0				
Cyprus	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0				
European Union	4,799	3,991	5,452	4,684	6,165	4,276	4,078	2977				
Hong Kong	6	12	0	0	7	0	17	0				
Israel								5				
Jamaica	NA	55	158	71	0	0	0	0				
Japan	69	13	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Malta	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0				
Paraguay	1	3	3	0	0	0	0	0				
Peru	0	0	0	28	22	4	5	0				
Saudi Arabia	0	36	NA	0	0	0	0	0				
South Africa	0	0	0	0	15	15	0	0				
Trinidad & Tobago	0	86	69	18	0	17	0	0				
United States	2,188	2,136	1,957	2,459	1,131	1,278	2,513	1720				
Total								4702				
Grand Total	60,856	126,064	176,472	160,300	138,611	173,449	106,368	78043				
Share to U.S. (%)	4%	4%	3%	5%	6%	4%	5%	0.02				

Post's source for export statistics for 2001 and 2002 was the Uruguayan National Meat Institute (INAC)

Sources: U.N. Trade for 1995-2000 and trade data of major trade partners 1995-2001.

Uruguay
BEEF IMPORTS
(metric tons)

		_						
Origin	1995	1996	esh/Chilled	1998	1999	2000	2001	Jan-July 2002
Argentina	0	63	0	0	0	0	0	480
Brazil	0	0	0	0	0	84	0	0
Chile	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0
EU 15	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Panama	0	0	0	26	0	0	0	0
United States	0	0	0	2	114	22	0	0
Total	1	63	0	29	124	106	0	480
Total	1	03	U	29	124	100	0	400
US market share	0%	0%	0%	7%	92%	21%	0%	0
			Frozen					Jan-July
Origin	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Argentina							0	334
Australia	0	0	0	379	0	0	0	0
Brazil	0	0	0	0	20	0	0	0
Canada	0	0	67	0	0	0	0	0
EU 15	2	2	0	3	0	49	0	0
New Zealand	0	0	0	16	0	0	0	0
Paraguay	52	0	0	0	12	0	0	0
United States	0	145	270	23	52	129	0	0
Total	54	147	337	421	84	178	0	334
US market share	0%	99%	80%	5%	62%	72%	0%	0
0-:-:-	1005		Processed	1000	1000	2000	2001	Jan-July
Origin Argentina	1995 6	1996 73	1997 9	1998 10	1999	2000	2001	2002
Brazil	74	72	31	35	60	53	94	54
EU 15	0	1	0	0	32	0	0	0
Paraguay	109	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
United States	0	0	0	36	23	14	0	0
Total	189	146	40	81	119	72	98	74

US market share	0%	0%	0%	44%	19%	19%	0%	0
		a=-				<b></b>		000
Grand Total	244	356	377	531	327	356	98	888
T ( 1110 1 ) 1	00/	410/	700/	110/	500/	4.00/	00/	0
Total US market share	0%	41%	72%	11%	58%	46%	0%	Ü

Sources: U.N. Trade for 1995-2000 and trade data of major trade partners 1995-2001.

Post's source for import statistics for 2001 and 2002 was Uruguayan Customs.